



April 27, 2011

**EX PARTE**

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket No. 01-92; High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 07-135; Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51; Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45; Lifeline and Link-Up, WC Docket No. 03-109

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On April 26, 2011, Eric Einhorn of Windstream, Hank Hultquist of AT&T, Kathy Grillo of Verizon, Ken Mason of Frontier, Mike Skrivan of Fairpoint and I met with the following FCC representatives: Zachary Katz, Sharon Gillett, Carol Matthey, Rebekah Goodheart, Michael Steffen, Patrick Halley and Elise Kohn.

During our meeting we discussed the Commission's efforts to reform the current universal service and intercarrier compensation regimes. In particular, we discussed approaches to transitioning universal service support to broadband and better targeting support to high-cost areas, which may also include unserved areas. We discussed how a model could be used to estimate overall funding support at various broadband parameters and to estimate the support needed in particular high-cost areas. A model estimating broadband support would also provide a valuable indicator of future potential support levels, allowing broadband providers some insight into a broadband support endpoint. We discussed processes for awarding broadband support funding to recipients to maximize the benefits of support and to take into account a variety of technologies for delivering broadband services. We also discussed the importance of reducing and unifying rates for terminating traffic on the PSTN as well as the essential nature of providing carriers with a legitimate opportunity to recover mandated rate reductions so they can continue investing at today's high levels in network infrastructure.

Ms. Marlene Dortch

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Pursuant to Commission rules, please include this notice in the dockets for the proceedings identified above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan Banks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jonathan Banks

c: Zachary Katz  
Sharon Gillett  
Carol Matthey  
Rebekah Goodheart  
Michael Steffen  
Patrick Halley  
Elise Kohn